



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,481	01/31/2006	Jean Luc Couturier	FR-AM 1878 NP	3892
31684 7590 10/16/2008				
ARKEMA INC. PATENT DEPARTMENT - 26TH FLOOR 2000 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-3222				
EXAMINER				
HUHN, RICHARD A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
4131				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4-11 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 4-11 and 17-20 provide for the use of alkoxyamines of instant formula (I), but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 4-11 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an

improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,569,967. US '967 fails to specifically name the compound of instant claim 1 in which R^2 is an alkyl group of 7 or 8 carbons. However, the reference discloses analogous compounds, such as the compound of instant claim 1 in which R^2 is an alkyl group of 1-6 carbons. See US '967, claim 7, in which the following groups are selected:

- a. $R^1 = H$
- b. $R^2 = \text{tert-butyl}$
- c. $R^3 = \text{tert-butyl}$
- d. $R^4 = R^5 = \text{ethoxy}$
- e. $R^6 = R^7 = \text{methyl}$
- f. $R^8 = -(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^9$, in which $n = 0$ and $R^9 = 1\text{-}6$ carbon alkyl.

8. A person of ordinary skill in the art would know that alkyl groups may be substituted with analogous longer-chain alkyl groups. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted the 6-carbon alkyl chain (as in US '967 claim 7) of group R^2 with a 7 or 8-carbon alkyl chain (as in the instant claim).

9. Claims 2-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,569,967 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,763,548.

10. US '967 fails to specifically name the compound of instant claim 2. However, US '967 discloses that the compounds of the general formula (I) (as recited in instant claim 1) may be made by the ATRA process (see col 2, lines 16-34; especially lines 32-34) with brominated carboxyl-group containing compounds, such as carboxylic esters, and copper (see col 5, example 4).

11. US '548 discloses that brominated carboxylic esters are equivalent in function to brominated carboxylic acids for an ATRA process. For example, 2-bromoisobutyric acid is equivalent to ethyl 2-bromoisobutyrate (the ethyl ester of 2-bromoisobutyric acid). (See col 9, lines 34-46. Line 40 and 44-45 disclose these compounds as sources of radicals for ATRA reactions.)

12. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have used a brominated carboxylic acid (such as 2-bromoisobutyric acid) to make alkoxyamines according to the method of US '967 to give the compound of instant claim 2, because

US '548 teaches that brominated carboxylic acids may be used in place of brominated carboxylic esters.

13. As to claim 3: The sodium salt of a carboxylic acid is an obvious variant of the carboxylic acid itself.

14. As to claims 4-16: US '967 discloses that the alkoxyamines disclosed therein may be used to create polymers by free-radical polymerization (see col 1, lines 4-10). While the reference does not disclose the kinetic dissociation constant as measured by EPR, the property is inherent to the alkoxyamine compounds.

15. Further as to claims 8-11 and 13-16: US '967 discloses that the monomers methyl acrylate and butyl acrylate may be polymerized by the alkoxyamines described therein. (See col 2 lines 52-63. Line 61 discloses methyl acrylate and butyl acrylate.)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD A. HUHN whose telephone number is (571) 270-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R. Sample/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 4131

/R. A. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 4131



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER'S CASE ACTION WORKSHEET

Copy (Ctrl+C)	Palm Transaction Code 1322 85811413110523481		Legal Instrument Examiner
------------------	---	--	---------------------------

CHECK TYPE OF ACTION

DATE OF COUNT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Final Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Restriction/Election Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Ex Parte Quayle	<input type="checkbox"/> Allowance	<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Answer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reply Brief Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Entry of Reply Brief
<input type="checkbox"/> Defective Notice of Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> Interference Disposal SPE _____ (Approval for Disposal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspension (Examiner-Initiated) SPE _____ (Initial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Defective Appeal Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> SIR Disposal (use only after FAOM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Examiner's Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous Office Letter (With Shortened Statutory Period Set)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment (With One Month Time Period set)	<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous Office Letter (No Response Period Set)
<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment after BPAI Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Rule 312 Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter Restarting Period for Response (e.g., Missing References)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorization to Change Previous Office Action SPE: _____ (Initial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Examiner's Name: RICHARD A. HUHN

AU: 4131

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

10/523,481

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
COUTURIER ET AL.

Examiner

RICHARD A. HUHNS

Art Unit

4131

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-5,763,548 A	06-1998	Matyjaszewski et al.	526/135
*	B	US-6,569,967 B1	05-2003	Couturier et al.	526/193
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,481

Applicant(s)

COUTURIER ET AL.

Examiner

RICHARD A. HUHNS

Art Unit

4131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/02)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 28 April 2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____